

AGENDA SUMMARY PAGE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF: MAY 6, 2009

DEPARTMENT: ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

DIRECTOR: TED J. OLIVAS

☐ Consent ☒ Discussion

SUBJECT:

Report and possible action by a representative from the Southern Nevada Health District regarding the outbreak of swine flu - All Wards

Fiscal Impact

☒

No Impact

☐

Augmentation Required

☐

Budget Funds Available

Amount:

Funding Source:

Dept./Division:

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND:

On April 26, 2009, the federal government declared a public health emergency related to the outbreak of swine flu in Mexico and the cases reported in the United States. The declaration of a public health emergency will allow for resources to be provided for federal, state and local agencies to prevent and mitigate the swine flu disease. At the time of the writing of this agenda summary page, there are no known cases of swine flu in Nevada. However, City of Las Vegas staff members are taking precautionary and planning measures.

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive report and direct staff accordingly

BACKUP DOCUMENTATION:

Submitted at Meeting – Various Correspondence and Fact Sheets by Dr. Lawrence Sands

Motion made by GARY REESE to Accept the report

Passed For: 7; Against: 0; Abstain: 0; Did Not Vote: 0; Excused: 0

RICKI Y. BARLOW, LOIS TARKANIAN, STEVE WOLFSON, OSCAR B. GOODMAN, GARY REESE, STEVEN D. ROSS, DAVID W. STEINMAN; (Against-None); (Abstain-None); (Did Not Vote-None); (Excused-None)

Minutes:

DR. LAWRENCE SANDS, Chief Health Officer of the Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD), thanked the Council for the opportunity to brief the community on the H1N1 influenza virus, commonly known as the swine flu virus. He also thanked CITY MANAGER ELIZABETH FRETWELL, CAROLYN LEVERING, Emergency Management, and CHIEF GREG GAMMON, Fire and Rescue, for their support and cooperation.

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There have been two confirmed cases of H1N1 in the Las Vegas Valley of an 11-year-old boy who has since recovered and a 39-year old woman who was hospitalized, but her condition is improving. In both cases, the patients had not traveled in the last seven days or had contact with people who were ill and traveled. Five additional cases are pending confirmation. The SNHD would have the capability to perform confirmation tests locally by May 8, 2009, allowing faster confirmation. The cases of H1N1 flu occurring throughout the Las Vegas Valley underscore the importance of the public taking the necessary steps to protect their health and prevent the spread of disease.

Many of the concerns about H1N1 flu relate to the public's lack of immunity but there have been no indications that H1N1 is more serious than other flu strains. H1N1 is not a dominant flu strain and the SNHD is continuing its work in monitoring the severity of H1N1 and identifying other seasonal flu strains. The SNHD is taking all the necessary steps to ensure that they are prepared to respond to the evolving situation. Also, the SNHD recently received its share of the strategic national stockpile which contains anti-viral medications as well as personnel protective equipment. The anti-viral medications can only be prescribed by a medical provider for treatment of serious illness and must be used as recommended to ensure they remain effective against the flu virus.

The SNHD is working closely with the Clark County School District (CCSD) to ensure school-related issues are addressed and the health of students and employees is protected. Additionally, the SNHD continues to coordinate with the CCSD, the Nevada State Health Division and other school districts to evaluate the need for school and day-care closures. The State recently issued guidelines in conjunction with the recommendations from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) to determine closures on a case-by-case basis.

The occurrence of the H1N1 flu was anticipated to decline as the flu season ends in the summer months, but SNHD will continue to monitor the virus as it was anticipated to return in the fall and winter flu season. The SNHD prepares and plans for annual flu seasons and the CDC is also preparing for the upcoming flu season by increasing the availability of flu shots. The CDC is also considering manufacturing a vaccination for the H1N1 strain. The SNHD and the CDC are working hard to ensure its partners are kept informed of any new developments.

MAYOR GOODMAN thanked DR. SANDS for his report, noting it was the Council's obligation to ensure the City's constituents are aware of the SNHD'S response to this outbreak and the status of the H1N1 flu.